3 August 1978

Dear H&L:

Thanks for yours of the 18th and 25th of July. I'll attempt a reply while sending along the enclosed, none of which looks particularly important but may be of interest. The piece by Joan Kennedy on their trip to China is included only because it includes another of those buried references we've seen all through the years to the effect that EMK still worries about being assassinated.

As far as I know, I sent nothing to Wrone that bears importantly on Hal Verb. Long ago, I separated out the letters we exchanged about him and intend to destroy them. As you know, I've sent NONE of the correspondence between you and us. What I was concerned about was such things, which were sent, as your occasional lectures to people like Paul Hoch, Jerry Policoff and Jerry Ray. These did go. If you want Wrone to withhold them, let him and me know. I'll back up your request.

Dave and Guth called me as soon as the material had arrived and been opened, and they seemed very pleased. However, I've heard nothing from them since, and I'm wondering if something has been lost en route here.

Not much to report here. Now that the files are out of the way I've been concentrating on taking care of all the odds and ends that have accumulated, meanwhile doing volunteer work for Hospice when it comes along. The latest effort being the making up and finishing of 10 shelves for Hospice's collection of public information material.

Also, with more time available I've gradually returned to the Chinese way of cooking and eating to a certain extent. I even exhumed and reactivated a special grill we had made many years ago for Mongolian barbecue, which is much fun because it takes place out on the deck where everybody selects and marinates their own meat along with condiments and vegetables and then grills the whole thing themselves. Already I've introduced it to three or four groups -- up to five or six people at a time -- and they've enjoyed the do-it-yourself cooking and then wrapping the whole mess up in a pao-ping (it's like a tortilla only made of wheat flour)-- and then chomp chomp.

And while cooking for one in Chinese is not as easy as when two are involved, I've managed to work out a few dishes that do very well. It's much better for you, tastes much better and costs much less than the usual fare. And one works up quite an appetite during all the preparation.

So I keep busy, with no lack of things that need doing. I read the Chronicle carefully, and while that paper is no longer what it used to be it does seem to squeeze in most of the important things going on among its preoccupations with sex and violence. I also get several good magazines and am able to feel that I'm about as well informed as before without all the pressures. Quite a change.

Thanks again for your letters, and I hope the heat and the bad air relent enough that you both can enjoy your good situation. Best to you both,

Jim

jdw